



## Ontario Provincial Council

### Of The Catholic Women's League of Canada Education and Health Standing Committee

Directive #9

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April 24, 2018

To: Diocesan Education and Health Committee Chairpersons

From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council, Sub Committee Chairs: Mary Lou Watson and Heather Sisk

cc: Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Executive, National Health and Education Standing Committee Chairperson

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*It is the Spirit that gives life. John 6:63*

#### **Education:**

A reminder that Catholic Education Week is around the corner—May 6-11, 2018. The theme for 2018, **Renewing the Promise**, draws upon previous documents on Ontario Catholic Education—**This Moment of Promise** (1989); **Fulfilling the Promise** (1993); and **Our Catholic Schools** (2006-2007). These documents speak of the unique mission of Ontario Catholic education, the importance of its shared leadership by those involved and the critical role of Catholic education in contemporary society. The Ontario Catholic Bishops will be producing a new statement entitled, **Renewing the Promise**. Catholic Education Week 2018 combines the themes of reconciliation, solidarity, love, justice and ecology. Check the activities in your Catholic schools and participate when you can to show your support of Catholic education.

#### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PRAYER

God of mercy, we thank you for the gift of Catholic education.

We walk in faith and thanks, guided by those who have gone before us,  
who nurtured and sustained Catholic education.

Inspired by the Catholic Graduate Expectations,  
we acknowledge that the promise of Catholic education is within us,  
that it is a promise that we live out in families and communities  
and is a promise that we proclaim in acts of justice and compassion, in word and deed.

We make this prayer that we may live out the promise of Catholic education  
for many more years to come. Amen.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada will receive a lifetime Xavierian Patron award from St. Francis Xavier University for the funding of Coady International Institute.

A reminder that applications for the National bursary need to be postmarked by May 31, 2018 in order to be eligible for consideration this year.

#### **Environment:**

Warmer weather is around the corner and the desire to use disposable plastic water bottles greater. Did you know that the average Canadian throws away 100 kilograms of plastic a year? Plastic accounts for 80-90% of

ocean pollution. Look at any roadway and you will see plastic water bottles discarded. Do what you can to help reduce plastic water bottles by using your own personal reusable water bottle. Remember to bring it in your car or when you go to exercise-each of us can make a difference. Pope Francis, in a January address stressed that “a green lifestyle must be consistent and complete, driven by a love for God the creator and all of his creation”. As with all things related to environmentally ethical behavior, the stress must be on the importance of personal responsibility. Pope Francis urged that we “experience environmental ethics that stem from the choices and behaviors in daily life.”

When teacher Ana Bárbara Ferreira noticed one of the girls in her class was upset, she asked what was wrong and discovered that a fellow student had said her hair was "ugly". The schoolteacher in Sao Paulo, Brazil told the little girl that she was wonderful and shouldn't care about the remark, but she still wanted to do more.

The next morning, when Ana Bárbara was getting ready, she remembered her upset student. "Today, I woke up and remembered what happened and decided to wear the same hairstyle she used to wear. When she saw me, she came running to hug me and say that I was beautiful, and I told her: 'Today I'm beautiful like you!'"



A tip of the hat to a very bright and caring teacher!

### **Health:**

There are many walks or hikes happening in the month of May to support hospices and palliative care. If you are able, show your support by taking part, perhaps get a few from your council to go as a team. Make this part of your palliative care events. Remember to hold “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” on May 4 or during the week of May 6-12, 2018. In 2017, councils all over the province participated on May 4<sup>th</sup>, prayers make a difference---may the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you!

Blessings and hugs,  
*Wilma Vanderzwaag*